UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Belmont

DATE: November 24, 1963

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

At 1:00 p.m., today, the Director telephoned Mr. Rosen's Office from his residence and advised he had just spoken with President Johnson concerning the shooting in Dallas, Texas, of Lee Harvey Oswald. The President was greatly disturbed about this incident and desired that the FBI conduct whatever investigation possible into this matter. Mr. Hoover said it had occurred to him that we might have jurisdiction from a possible civil rights standpoint. Mr. Hoover had talked with Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach concerning this possibility, and Katzenbach is presently in the process of having research performed to determine under what Federal jurisdiction we might proceed.

Mr. Hoover referred to the fact that our Dallas Office had warned local authorities concerning the anonymous call received at the Dallas Office 11/24/63. This was the call that threatened the shooting of Oswald when he would be transferred from the City to the County Jail 11/24/63. He said Dallas Chief of Police Curry had not properly handled the situation, as evidenced by the fact that Oswald was, in fact, critically wounded.

Mr. Hoover stated he wanted the Dallas Office to immediately have Agents participate in the interview at Dallas Police Department Headquarters of the individual who had shot Oswald. (At this point Mr. Hoover was apprised of the identity of this individual, Jack Leon Ruby, and what background was then available concerning him. He was advised that we were reviewing Bureau files for all available information on Ruby. It had already been determined that records of the Identification Division contained only one print which had been submitted by the Dallas Police Department 12/5/54 when Ruby was arrested on a local liquor violation. The Director was also advised that the Dallas Office was considering the possibility of a dying declaration being obtained from Oswald. He agreed that this should be done.) He said that Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach was going to recontact him and furnish results of his research. At that time Mr. Hoover will have further instructions concerning this matter.

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Sullivan

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Mr. Hoover reiterated that the President wants us to vigorously pursue this matter from whatever angle possible and, if necessary, without complete regard for technicalities.

The Director advised he wanted Agents standing by at the Parkland Hospital in Dallas in order that we may know on a current basis the physical condition of Oswald. Mr. Hoover was advised that as of the time of this call, we had learned from Dallas that Oswald had not yet regained consiousness. He said he wanted to be kept advised telephonically at his residence concerning developments in this matter.

ACTION:

At 1:18 p.m., SAC Shanklin of the Dallas Office was furnished the above information and instructions. Shanklin advised that Agents were taking part in the interview of Ruby and that an Agent was also standing by at Parkland Hospital.